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THE MORNING NEWS

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Emotional Pope celebrates final Sunday prayers



AFP photo shows Pope Benedict XVI celebrating yesterday's prayers from the window of his apartments at St Peter's Square in Vatican.

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI delivered an emotional last Sunday prayer in St Peter's Square, saying God had told him to devote himself to quiet contemplation but assuring he would not "abandon" the Church.

The final days of his pontificate are being overshadowed by mounting scandal over two cardinals -- one accused of covering up paedophile abusers and the other accused of "inappropriate acts" -- set

to take part in the conclave to elect the next pontiff.

But tens of thousands of supporters turned out for Benedict's final Sunday prayers ahead of his formal resignation on Thursday, often interrupting him with their clapping, cheering and chanting.

"The Lord is calling me to climb the mountain, to dedicate myself even more to prayer and meditation. But this does not mean abandoning the Church," the pope said from

S. Korea swears in first woman president

SEOUL (AFP) - Park Geun-Hye, the daughter of South Korea's late military ruler, will be sworn in as the country's first female president today in a ceremony shadowed by North Korea's recent nuclear test.

As South Korea's first-ever woman president, she will lead a country that is ranked below the likes of Suriname and the United Arab Emirates in gender equality.

She is taking office a little more than 50 years after her father, Park Chung-He, seized power in a military coup.



Dr. Susan Morter.

March 8, the Ministry of Economic & Social Affairs and Culture is hosting a spectacular forum of guest speakers for the Women's Day Conference 2013. The purpose is to inspire the confidence each woman should have in their ability to direct their lives to greater purpose and productivity, as well as inspiring them to attain their full potential.

The day will include the world premier of a thoughtful and thought-provoking film, "Femme: Women Healing the World" by French filmmaker Emmanuel Itier. It features parts of an interview with

Aruba's Minister of Economic & Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, who joins an illustrious roster of notable women. Among them are country leaders, world-renowned social historians, psychologists, active humanitarians, and motivational speakers, including one of the guest speakers for the conference, Dr. Susan Morter.

Dr. Morter, a certified chiropractor, had observed her patients, realizing that health and wellness is achieved through treating the whole; a melding of body, spirit and mind are essential to the process, not only physical manipulation. Her philosophy "bridges science, spirit and human possibility." Her health center focuses on all these aspects with The BioEnergetic Synchronization Technique (B.E.S.T.), "a non-forceful, energy balancing hands-on procedure used to help reestablish the full healing potential of the body."

THE MORNING NEWS is honored to feature her in the first of two exclusive interviews with guest speakers for the upcoming conference, along with actress/humanitarian Maria Bello. Both are featured in Emmanuel Itier's film "Femme."

Continued on page 2

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Continued on page 7

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Exclusive Interview with Dr. Sue Morter, guest speaker ...

Continued from page 1

TMN: How did your chiropractic practice help you develop your current philosophy and treatment?

DR. MORTER: Not only working with other people's aches and pain, but in healing my own. I realized that no one heals, truly heals, until there is a more deeply integrated connection within them than there was before they became ill. People's minds and hearts and spirits must come together in unison before any sustainable shift can happen. We have to realize that we are whole and complete just as we are and that there is nothing wrong and nothing missing. We compare ourselves to others and we conclude that we are lacking in some way. Ultimately, when this is the case, the nervous system picks up on the signal that something is wrong and we are moved into a state of fear or emergency. Then, after weeks, months or even years of this, our systems deplete and exhaust and we become susceptible to injury or illness. This is one of the premises of Chiropractic: that the body is able to heal itself, if given the appropriate circumstances to do so.

I personally grew up with this perspective. I have never

gone to the doctor to get an antibiotic to remedy an ailment that I have had. Instead I have taught myself – and many others – to self heal through specific nervous system techniques that, by design, shift the function of the nervous system out of fight or flight and return it to a healing state. We all have this capacity; in many cases we simply have not been shown our wholeness.

TMN: How did you develop your Energy Codes?

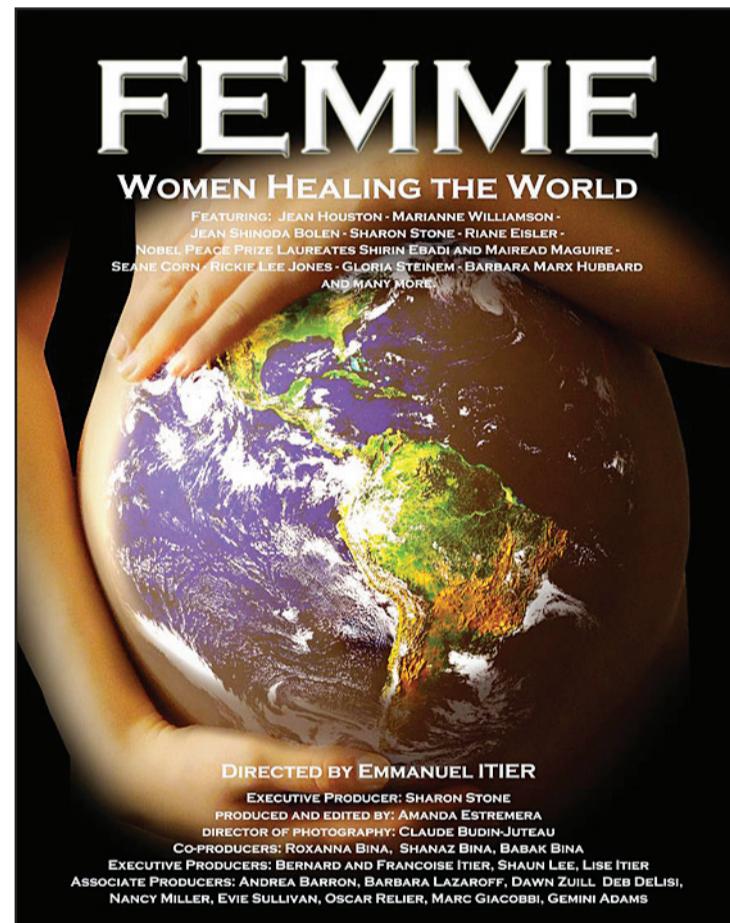
DR. MORTER: Similar to what I have already mentioned, they have all come together from my personal experience, my working with thousands of patients over 25 years, working with groups, large and small and from my professional graduate and post graduate school training. In addition, I also had the opportunity of growing up in a natural healthcare environment where the dinner table conversation was about Quantum Science and natural healing. It was inevitable that the codes would come together in my practice. I will also add that the largest influence of creating the Energy Codes came after a life changing and transcendental experience I had

through meditation. After this profound experience, I was able to actually see the energy flow in an individual's body and therefore I could start to watch what was happening as someone was healing. From that I put much of the work together.

I realized that we create so much of our challenge in life by living in our heads and generating so many stresses that are actually not real, but imagined. And rarely are the circumstances as 'bad' as we have written them to be. I could not only sense our extreme tendency to do this, but I could actually see the energy fields emitting from an individual that was stressing. They appeared much different than those energies being emitted from a peaceful mind and heart. Most of us have already experienced such distinctions; we just can't 'see' them. We know when someone is happy even if they don't say, and we know if they are stressed even if they don't admit it. The Energy Codes help us learn to put a language to what we sense, but can't quite put our finger on with ourselves and with others. And most importantly, they allow us to begin to heal. Quietly, intimately and at our own authentic pace, we will heal.

TMN: Relating to "Femme: Women healing the world," you speak of getting to the "center" and great power. How important do you feel this film is to relationships and well being?

DR. MORTER: Femme is on the frontier on Consciousness today. Its' conversation speaks to an age old Truth that the nurturing, comprehensive, and natural Feminine Principle is destined to surface as our ultimate solution to all issues borne of a fragmented version of thought. When mankind attempts to beat the system and



get ahead by over utilization of resources, being socially irresponsible, prejudiced or incongruent in any other way, ultimately the plan will fail. As we surrender to the laws of nature and listen and act from our hearts, we will mend the fallen structures that have served their purpose of awakening us and move into a more holistic way is seeing, living and leaving legacy.

TMN: What attracted you to contributing to this film?

Dr. MORTER: I was attracted to the intention of Femme: bringing a conversation of true and sustainable healing forward in our culture...in all cultures. I have known for a long time that this conversation would eventually have its day in the sun. Today is that day. The time has come to wake up to the Grace that Mother Nature bestows upon us. It is time to live like we care. Femme stands in that Light

Continued on page 4

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Minister announces government testing labs to be privatized

ORANJESTAD – Minister of Public Health and Sports, Dr. Richard Visser announced recently that the government's laboratories are in the process of restructuring to become an independent department. This is expected to be completed by 2014.

"The privatization is necessary for the health department to stay competitive and be more attractive for specialists needed here," he explained. "It is something that has been analyzed for some time already."

"In 2014, the government's laboratories will become independent department. The change is expected



to encourage more efficient service and the use of advanced technology needed by our specialists and hospital. With the equipment we have now, our laboratories cannot give optimal service."

Minister Visser commented that with an independent laboratory department, our health system will enter a more competitive market just like other corporations, or "NV's" on the island. "The idea is to enhance our health service quality and become better; for our hospital, doctors and specialists."

He also emphasized that the prices must be actualized and that the cost for tests must be cheaper. It must be competitive and AZV will help to achieve this.

The minister said the laboratory in the Horacio Oduber Hospital is also included in the process. The employees of this laboratory have a much higher salary than stipulated by the government standards. The health department cannot continue to pay that level of salary and simultaneously pay specialists required to give the service required to help the sick people of our island.

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Balloons of Hope take to the sky in Palm Beach



The Holiday Inn Aruba hosted a three-day Pfizer International Group symposium of oncologists and Pfizer executives beginning on Thursday, February 21. During that time they shared the latest advance in research and treatment of cancer. In a gesture of solidarity in the battle against cancer, they ended their stay with an impromptu march from their resort to the venue for their final dinner on Saturday evening, Hard Rock Cafe Aruba, only a short distance away in Palm Beach.

The doctors carried over 200 blue and green balloons down Irausquin Boulevard to demonstrate their commitment



alongside Pfizer to "combat the world of cancer." Upon arriving at the Hard Rock Cafe Aruba, they released the balloons to float as a message of hope and optimism for all patients and their family members affected by the disease.

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TripAdvisor names Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts a “Top Hotel in the Caribbean” and “Top Hotel for Romance”

Aruba's premier resort for romance achieves a “triple crown” of awards in 2013 adding to its growing lists of accolades and achievements



TripAdvisor has announced the winners of the 2013 Travelers' Choice hotel awards, which identifies the world's top properties, and Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts is pleased to be honored among the top 25 hotels in the Caribbean, the only resort in Aruba to receive this distinction. Additionally, the resort was named the number two out of 10 in the top hotels for romance in the Caribbean category. TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice winners are based on millions of valuable reviews and opinions from travelers around the world.

“We are truly honored to be recognized among such an elite group of hotels and are

proud to represent Aruba as the island's only resort to receive this distinction,” said Bucuti's owner Ewald Biemans. “We are less than two months into the New Year and already we've hit a trifecta of honors having first earned a placement on Condé Nast Traveler's prestigious Gold List. Recognition of this kind can only be achieved with the help of our top-notch team who demonstrate a commitment to providing an outstanding experience. It's been our pleasure to serve our loyal guests and we thank them for the kind reviews and feedback that have ultimately led to us providing a superior, romantic and relaxing travel experi-

ence.”

As Aruba's only boutique-style resort that caters exclusively to adults, Bucuti has long been recognized by travelers worldwide, achieving a number of awards. Most recently Bucuti was named to Condé Nast Traveler's prestigious Gold List, recognizing the world's best places to stay for 2013, as well as selected as a Top Resort in the Caribbean in the outlet's 2011 Readers' Choice Awards. Additional accolades include being named a 2011 Fodor's Choice selection; recognition for Eagle Beach and Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts as one of the top ten in the Top 25 Beaches in the World by TripAdvisor; and more than two dozen environmental awards and certifications, including the Highest Achievement Award as the top performing sustainable travel & tourism business in the Caribbean by Green Globe Certification.

Additionally, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts is consistently recognized as one of the top ten most romantic resorts in the world by TripAdvisor, and has earned the number two spot in the most recent TripAdvisor ranking of the top ten hotels for romance in the Caribbean. Bucuti provides the perfect haven for all things romance and is the ideal resort for a destination proposal, honeymoon getaway, unforgettable anniversary celebration or an intimate romantic Caribbean escape for couples looking for magnificent beach views, stunning tropical sunsets and perfect weather year-round to help celebrate their love.

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Exclusive Interview with Dr. Sue Morter...

Continued from page 2

TMN: What do you hope will come from its distribution and viewing? Optimistically....

DR. MORTER: It is my hope that every human being that is living and breathing can hear this message and then ‘teach it forward’ in their own language and their own expression, differently every day, and in their own unique way. It is my hope that this film makes a contribution to the reuniting of our desire as humans to continue to be progressive in the world and to advance in every facet of our creative capacity and at the same time learn to balance and honor that with the beauty of Self Realization and the natural care taking that comes with such awakenings. It is my hope that Femme will clarify the feminine principle and become known as a great contributor to the realization that the only

way to create sustainable business, educational projects, healthcare systems or any other cultural or social consideration, is by applying this way of engaging in the world.

“Women healing the world” doesn't infer that men cannot play significant roles in this shift of awareness. They will; in fact, they must. It simply means that we have to begin to look differently at the issues at hand and see from the viewpoint of the feminine: We become interested in the long-term effects of every decision and every action and we are interested in the nurturing of a greater good. Without that, no one wins. And with it, we are One, with nature and with each other. It is time for women to model that for the world, not just wish for it.

Rosalie Klein

Aircraft parts found at west coast of Curacao

WILLEMSTAD – Spokesperson for the Coast Guard confirmed on the weekend that parts of a small aircraft were found at the west side of Curacao during the afternoon hours of February 21, 2013. There are indications that these parts belong to the recent aircraft which carried the well known Vittorio Missoni but disappeared in the area of Los Roques, islands off the coast of Venezuela. Missoni is the heir of the fashion house carrying his own name.

Since the airplane's January 4 disappearance, some luggage has washed ashore. The first, a bag of kite-surfing equipment recovered in Curaçao on January 10, belonged to tourist Giorgio Neri, who stowed his gear on the fashion mogul's plane. One month later, a reporter attempting to trace the



flight's path came across a backpack tagged "Vittorio Missoni" on the Caribbean island of Bonaire and another suitcase labeled "Vittorio Missoni and Maurizia Castiglioni" was spotted "not too far" away.

The spokesperson could not exactly confirm that the parts really belong to Missoni's aircraft because investigations are now done by the Public Prosecution.

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On March 9 and 10 Dermatologists of Aruba to host “Bo ta check bo cuero?”



The dermatologists of Aruba will be hosting a skin cancer screening: “Bo ta check bo cuero?” - Do you check your skin - for the public on 16th of March from 9-12 and 13-16 at the Dermatology Center (Oranjestad, Stadionweg 16), and on 17th of March from 9-12 and 13-16 at the IMSAN (San Nicolas).

“Current estimates are that one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime,” dr. Nuris Lampe said. “That’s why raising awareness

of skin cancer in our community through this “Bo ta check bo cuero?” is so important.”

There are three main goals:

1. Creating of an increased awareness for the danger of UV radiation. How to protect your skin, how to check your skin and how to recognize a sun damaged skin?

2. To provide insight in the scale of the problem skin cancer on Aruba and worldwide.

3. Create awareness among people to regularly check your skin (self-examination) to be able to recognize skin cancer in an early stage.

Exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun is the most important preventable cause of all skin cancers, including melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. Protect your skin by seeking shade, and wearing sunscreen and protective clothing.

Early detection also is vital to effectively treat skin cancer. Regularly check your skin for moles that are growing, changing or bleeding, and make an appointment with a dermatolo-

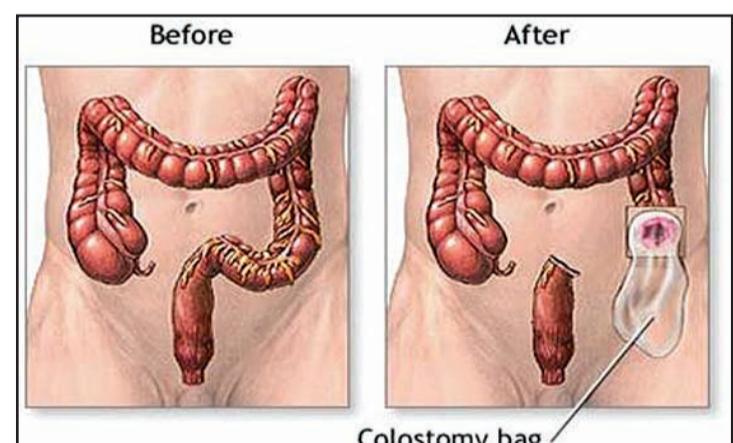


gist if you see anything suspicious.

Please register for “Bo ta check bo cuero” by sending an email to checkbocuero@gmail.com or call 5885506 prior to the event. You can also contact us for more information.

To learn more about ways to prevent and detect skin cancer, or to find a local dermatologist, visit www.bestdermaclinicaruba.com or www.facebook.com/DermaClinicAruba.

Mary Joan Foundation and FORSA Foundation with lecture on Colon cancer



The Mary Joan Foundation invites everyone for an informative night on colon cancer, tomorrow, February 26. The lecture is by FORSA, foundation that has as aim to give patients all the support needed when dealing with colon cancer.

These informative lectures are important as Aruba has many colon cancer patients. FORSA give patients and family members support through lectures and bulletins, most specifically STOMA.

STOMA, in many cases, is confused with stomach. A stoma is an opening, either

natural or surgically created, which connects a portion of the body cavity to the outside environment.

One well-known form of an artificial stoma is a colostomy, which is a surgically created opening in the large intestine that allows the removal of feces out of the body, bypassing the rectum, to drain into a pouch or other collection device. The historical practice of trepanation was also a type of stoma.

The lecture is tomorrow at 8:00 p.m. at the Fantastic Gardens.

Waiting for Hugo: Questions outside Chavez hospital



CARACAS (AFP) - A huge banner of a smiling Hugo Chavez covers the top of the military hospital where the ailing president is recuperating, but Venezuelans await for the man himself to finally appear in the flesh.

Presidential guards with red berets now control who goes through the gate, while Chavez reportedly rests in a ninth-floor room he has stayed in since he returned last Monday from 10 weeks of cancer treatment in Cuba.

In recent days, the government, which has tightly managed information about his health, put up tall banners along the street of the hospital displaying images of the leftist leader and the words "Chavez lives and smiles."

But outside the Dr. Carlos Arvelo Military Hospital, people wonder: Is Chavez really in there? How sick is he and when will he finally reappear?

"Some say he's getting better, others say he's getting worse, others say he's still in Cuba or dead," said Jose Acosta, 24, who works at the J.Kelly bakery across from the hospital.

"There are so many rumors, you don't know what to think," Acosta said, echoing a sentiment repeated by a half-dozen people interviewed outside the hospital.

A man wearing white medical garb with the printed word "radiology" walked into the shop but refused to talk about Chavez or the hospital, saying "I don't know anything."

On a wall, there was the image of a smiling but bedridden Chavez flanked by his two daughters, one of the only four pictures that the government released of the once omnipresent leader on February 15, when he was still in Cuba.

At the hospital's main en-

trance, a presidential guard officer refused to let an AFP reporter go through, saying the communications ministry decides if journalists can visit.

The mystery surrounding the president's health has cast doubt over the political future of a nation sitting on top of the world's biggest oil reserve.

In power for 14 years, Chavez was re-elected to a six-year term in October after declaring himself cancer-free.

But he abruptly returned to Cuba for a fourth round of surgery in December and named Vice President Nicolas Maduro his political heir.

His January 10 inauguration was postponed indefinitely, prompting the opposition to cry foul. Elections must be called within 30 days if the president is incapacitated, and the opposition met Sunday to prepare to name a unity candidate.

The government's last medical report on Thursday was gloomy, stating that Chavez still suffers from a respiratory problem he developed after his December 11 surgery and that the trend was not favorable.

Chavez announced his return on Twitter and has released letters, but the booming voice that captivates loyal followers and infuriates his foes has remained silent. He is breathing through a tube, hindering his speech.

Swiss millionaire puts Bond's Aston Martin up for sale



GENEVA (AFP) - James Bond's famous Aston Martin car, complete with hidden machine guns and a smoke screen, is now up for grabs for a cool three million pounds, a Swiss weekly reported Sunday.

Swiss millionaire Thomas Straumann put the vehicle up for sale in Britain with a price tag of three million pounds (3.5 million euros, \$4.6 million), the Swiss weekly NZZ am Sonntag said.

Straumann, a shareholder in a dental implant firm, bought the Aston Martin DB5 in 2006 and spent three years restoring the car driven by Sean Connery as the fictional British spy in "Goldfinger" and "Thunderball".

After buying the car for \$2.7 million at a US auction, Straumann had 3,000 hours of work put into its overhaul, according to NZZ am Sonntag.

Its famous JB007 license plate aside, the Aston Martin boasts machine guns hidden behind retractable headlights, a smoke screen and a bullet-proof shield.

But one notable absence is a gadget Straumann chose to eliminate during the makeover: the ejector seat.



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John Kerry embarks on sweeping tour of Europe, Mideast



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry boards his plane at Andrews Air Force Base in Camp Springs, Maryland

WASHINGTON (AFP) - America's top diplomat John Kerry began his first official trip as secretary of state on Sunday, a marathon get-acquainted tour of America's closest allies in Europe and the Middle East.

A plane carrying the news US secretary of state and his team took off from Joint Base Andrews outside Washington at around 7:15 am local time (12:15 GMT).

Kerry will visit the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar from February 24 to March 6.

The first stop will be London, where Kerry will meet with senior British officials,

State Department Spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told reporters Friday.

Kerry travels on to Berlin where, in addition to meeting Germans, he will encounter his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, for a tricky exchange at a time when Moscow and Washington are at loggerheads on many issues.

"Obviously, they know each other well from when Secretary Kerry was Senator Kerry, but it will be their first opportunity to sit down bilaterally as foreign ministers," Nuland said.

The marathon trip underscores Washington's new foreign policy imperative, which is subtly pivoting away from Asia and increasingly towards Europe.

Kerry is a figure of standing in Washington.

He served for decades as a US senator, including a stint as the chairman of the chamber's Foreign Relations Committee. He was also the Democratic party's presidential nominee in 2004.

Among the issues high on his agenda during the marathon series of talks is a newly-announced effort to agree a mammoth free trade agreement between the United States and the European Union.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Emotional Pope celebrates final Sunday prayers

Continued from page 1

There was tight security in and around the Vatican, with more than 100 police officers and snipers on surrounding buildings, as well as two field clinics and hundreds of volunteers to help pilgrims.

The event was being seen as preparation for the pope's final general audience in St Peter's on Wednesday where around 200,000 people are expected.

Some Italian media have speculated that Benedict's health may be worse than has been revealed, and others have said an explosive report into the "Vatileaks" scandal may be to blame.

Some reports say a committee of cardinals into the leaks of confidential papal papers last year had uncovered allegations of intrigue, corruption and blackmail in the Vatican.

The Vatican's Secretariat of State -- the government of the Catholic Church -- took the unusual step on Saturday of issuing a statement condemning "completely false news stories".

A series of meetings of cardinals starting Friday will determine the date of the start of the conclave of cardinals to elect a new pope.

No favourite has emerged but many observers say the cardinals may plump for a younger candidate who is a more pastoral figure than the academic Benedict.

The upcoming conclave is under a cloud over allegations that one of the 117 "cardinal electors" -- US clergyman Roger Mahony had covered up for paedophile priests for years in Los Angeles.

British cardinal Keith O'Brien has been reported to the Vatican over claims of inappropriate behaviour, the Ob-

server newspaper reported on Sunday.

The Vatican said the pope was considering the case.

The Vatican has said Benedict will retire to the papal summer residence of Castel Gandolfo near Rome for the next two or three months while a former monastery inside the Vatican is renovated.

Vatican sources said he is likely to retain his title of "His Holiness" and will also be known under the previously unheard-of title of "Bishop Emeritus of Rome".

The pope, who started a Twitter account in December and has stressed the need for the Church to be present on social media, has also taken to microblogging to say his final goodbyes.

A message on the pope's Twitter handle @Pontifex on Sunday said: "In these momentous days, I ask you to pray for me and for the Church."

Three coal trucks torched at large Colombia mine

BOGOTA (AFP) - Three coal trucks were torched yesterday at Colombia's Cerrejon mine, where miners have been on strike for the last two weeks, according to the Swiss-British-Australian consortium running the site.

The consortium said in a statement that three trucks had been completely burnt and another partially destroyed as a result of a bomb attack at the mine in the far north of the country, near the border with Venezuela.

The consortium, consisting of the Swiss Xstrata, Britain's Anglo American and Australia's BHP Billiton, said no

Calls mount for US action against Chinese hack attacks

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Calls mounted yesterday for stiffer US action against Beijing for cyber spying and massive theft of US industrial secrets, allegedly by the Chinese military.

Mike Rogers, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said it was "beyond a shadow of a doubt" that the Chinese military was behind a growing wave of hacking attacks on US businesses and institutions.

"They use their military to steal intellectual property from American businesses and European businesses, repurpose it, and compete in the international market against the United States," he said.

"It's unprecedented," he said on ABC's This Week. "And I'll tell you, it's bad as I have ever seen it. It's getting worse. Why? There's no consequence for it."

In the most detailed account yet of the cyber spying, a report this week by the Mandiant security firm said it traced back attacks by one group of

hackers to a building on the outskirts of Shanghai that houses a unit of the Peoples Liberation Army.

The report said the hackers, known as "APT1" or "Comment Crew," had stolen data from at least 141 organizations across 20 industries.

Last month the New York Times and other American media outlets reported they had come under hacking attacks from China, and a US congressional report last year named the country as "the most threatening actor in cyberspace."

China has called the charges "groundless," and state media has accused Washington of scapegoating Beijing to deflect attention from US economic problems.

Eliot Engel, the top Democrat in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said US lawmakers raised the issue with top Chinese officials dur-

ing a recent visit to Beijing. "And they just let it roll off their back. They pooh-pooh it. They don't admit to it," he said on ABC.

But he said it was "fundamental" to the US relationship with the Chinese.

"I think we have to make it very clear to them that this cannot be business as usual. If they're going to continue to do this to the extent that they're doing it, there's a price to pay," he said.

Rogers drew a distinction between cyber espionage to steal state secrets, which he said all states engage in, and the theft of blueprints and industrial secrets from US companies for economic reasons.

He said the United States should respond by "indicting bad actors," and suggested that Washington deny visas to individuals in China who are involved in the hacking and their families.



MALI, Gao : People search for goods on February 24, 2013 at the Gao market, which reportedly burnt on February 21 during an Islamist attack on the northern city. Clashes erupted in the city of Gao and an apparent car bomb struck near a camp housing French troops on February 21 as Malian and foreign forces struggled to secure Mali's volatile north against Islamist rebels. Malian troops were battling armed rebels in Gao in clashes that left the main courthouse in flames, after fighting erupted overnight with heavy gunfire reported around two main entrances to the city. (AFP PHOTO)

Health

France says drug-tainted horsemeat likely in food chain

PARIS (AFP) - Horsemeat containing a drug potentially harmful to humans has probably entered the food chain, France announced this past weekend, as Italy became the latest country to be drawn into the contaminated meat scandal.

In Germany meanwhile, a minister suggested giving products mislabelled as beef products but actually containing horsemeat to the poor.

Several horse carcasses containing the drug Phenylbutazone have probably ended up being eaten by consumers, a French agriculture ministry spokesman told AFP.

Phenylbutazone is an anti-inflammatory treatment for horses which is potentially harmful to humans and so is banned for consumption.

Britain alerted Paris that six tainted carcasses had been exported to France in January, but by that time the meat had already been processed.

Agriculture Minister Stephane Le Foll said that although some of the meat had been recalled, the equivalent of three carcasses had "probably" made it to consumers.

There was however "no health risk" since the traces of phenylbutazone found in the meat were "extremely weak".

China reports year's second fatal case of bird flu



BEIJING (AFP) - A man in southwestern China has died of bird flu, health authorities said Saturday, becoming the second fatality from the H5N1 virus this year.

The 31-year-old died in hospital in the city of Guiyang on Friday, the Guizhou province health department said in a statement, adding that no other human cases of avian flu had been reported in the province.

Another city resident, a 21-year-old woman, died from the virus earlier this month.

he added.

Le Foll said this incident was not connected with the wider horsemeat scandal since the meat had not been disguised as beef.

But the announcement nevertheless added a new dimension to the scandal.

The row over mislabelled meat erupted in Europe in January after horsemeat was initially found in so-called beef ready-made meals and burgers in Britain and Ireland.

Since then, supermarkets across the continent have pulled prepared meals from their shelves, with effects felt as far away as Hong Kong where an imported brand of lasagne has been withdrawn from stores.

On Saturday Italy joined the long list of countries that have been hit by the fraud, reporting its first case of horse-meat-contaminated lasagne.

Horsemeat was found in tests on six tonnes of mince-meat and 2,400 "lasagne bolognese" packages produced by a central Italian company that had used meat from suppliers based in the northern part of the country.

The tests were carried out as part of checks by police on 121 brands across the country.

Red Wine And Red Grapes Help Protect Against Hearing Loss And Cognitive Decline



Red wine and red grapes contain resveratrol, a substance which appears to protect against hearing loss and cognitive decline, researchers from the Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, reported in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

In an animal experiment, the scientists found that laboratory rats would suffer less from the long-term effects of noise-induced hearing loss if they consumed resveratrol before listening to extended periods of loud noise.

Study lead author Michael D. Seidman, director of the Division of Otologic/Neurotologic Surgery in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at Henry Ford Hospital, said:

"Our latest study focuses on resveratrol and its effect on bioinflammation, the body's response to injury and

something that is believed to be the cause of many health problems including Alzheimer's disease, cancer, aging and hearing loss."

Resveratrol, a powerful chemical, appears to protect against the inflammatory processes associated with hearing loss, cognition and ageing, the authors added.

Several studies have indicated that resveratrol, a compound in red wine, has

anti-aging properties.

Noise induced hearing loss is the cause of several problems, including:

- * Obviously, the person's inability to hear properly

- * Sleeping difficulties

- Problems with communication

- * A higher risk of heart disease because of a greater prevalence of hypertension, and blood lipid and sugar levels.

To Improve Sleep



1. Sprinkle just-washed sheets and pillowcases with lavender water. The scent has been shown in studies to promote relaxation, which can lead to better sleep.
2. Buy a new pillow. Katz says that studies show that pillows with an indent in the center can enhance sleep quality and reduce neck pain. Also, try a "cool" pillow -- one containing either all-natural fibers or a combination of sodium sulfate and ceramic fibers that help keep your head cool.
3. Eat a handful of walnuts before bed. You'll be giving yourself a boost of fiber and essential fatty acids along with the amino acid tryptophan -- a natural sleep-inducer.

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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Sci-Tech

Samsung unveils 8-inch tablet with phone capability



SEOUL (AFP) - Samsung on Sunday unveiled an eight-inch tablet with phonecall capability to rival Apple's recently launched iPad mini and to cement its market dominance by offering devices in a variety of sizes.

The Galaxy Note 8.0 features an eight-inch screen and, where it may steal a march on its rival which measures 7.9-inches, the ability to make phone calls.

The new device, now being marketed by Samsung as a "tablet", is powered by Google's Android software and will be showcased at the four-day Mobile World Congress in Barcelona beginning on February 25, the company said in a statement.

Like previous incarnations

of the Galaxy Note, the device comes with a stylus pen allowing the user to write or draw on the screen, which can be split in two to run various programs at the same time.

Global sales will begin in the second quarter, the firm said.

Samsung is the world's top maker of smartphones and mobile phones in general.

The latest device -- the first from the company to feature an eight-inch screen -- is set to fill a gap in the firm's wide product lineup, which ranges from the flagship smartphone Galaxy S to the 5.5-inch Galaxy Note 2 and the 10.1-inch Galaxy Tab tablet PC.

The firm has recently shifted its focus to its Galaxy Note, which turned out to be far more popular than the larger Galaxy Tab, offering the Note in various sizes in a move that blurred the lines between smartphones and tablet PCs.

Samsung said the launch of the Galaxy Note 8.0 will "reignite the mid-size tablet category" -- a segment increasingly crowded by rival products including the iPad mini that launched last November and Google's seven-inch Nexus 7.

Supersonic skydiver's records confirmed

LAUSANNE (AFP) - Austrian skydiver Felix Baumgartner broke three world records when he jumped from the edge of space in October, the World Air Sports Federation confirmed.

The Swiss-based federation, also known as the FAI, said Baumgartner notched up the world's maximum vertical speed record, as well as the highest exit altitude and vertical distance of freefall.

The FAI confirmed a final analysis by Baumgartner's team Red Bull Stratos, which said that the 43-year-old reached 1,357.6 kilometres (843.6 miles) an hour, or Mach 1.25, in freefall.

Baumgartner's jump took place last October 14 in Roswell in the US state of New Mexico.

He was first carried up in a pressurised capsule attached to a helium balloon to an altitude of 38,969.4 metres (127,852.4 feet).

Wearing a specially-designed survival suit, he launched himself to Earth, freefalling 36,402.6 metres before opening his parachute.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Scientists are delving deep into the travels of whales -- thanks to high-tech tracking devices -- to try to help protect them.

Except for a few species, global whale populations have been decimated over the last few hundred years. Many are at less than 10 percent of their original population size, following aggressive hunting in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Today, whales are threatened by collisions with ships, getting trapped in fishing nets and from industrial acoustic disturbances caused by ship traffic, said Daniel Palacios at the Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of California Santa Cruz.

To better protect them, scientists at the annual American Association for the Advancement of Science conference in Boston said they need to better understand how and when whales eat and breed, and where they travel.

But that information has been difficult to obtain, Palacios said, because scientists have only recently gotten hold of technology to track whales for up to a year.

Other sea animals have

been tracked for a long time. "But tagging and tracking such large animals has been a huge problem over the last 25 years," said Palacios.

With the newly collected data "we have examined about 200 tracks from (four) different species in different oceans basins," he added.

Whales can swim between 620 and 3,100 miles (1,000 and 5,000 kilometers) per year depending on the species

"What we see is that is that whales engage in sort of local restricted movements, and then they would take off and follow very direct paths with a very high precision," Palacios said.

Zoologists have found that blue whales -- the largest animal on earth, measuring up to 32 meters (105 feet) long and weighing up to 200 tonnes -- feed for several months off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, in the middle of shipping lanes for vessels heading to the busy port of Los Angeles.

Climate change also threatens whales, said Nicholas Pyenson, curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington.



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PICKLES

by BRIAN CRANE

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THAT HUMAN SPEECH SOUNDS SORT OF LIKE DUCKS QUACKING?

IT'S TRUE. IF YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES AND LISTEN TO PEOPLE TALKING, IT SOUNDS LIKE A HERD OF DUCKS.

A HERD OF DUCKS?

I DON'T THINK A GROUP OF DUCKS IS CALLED A HERD.

IT'S CALLED A FLOCK OF DUCKS, ISN'T IT?

OR IS IT A GAGGLE? NO, THAT'S GEESE, I THINK.

QUACK QUACK QUACK!

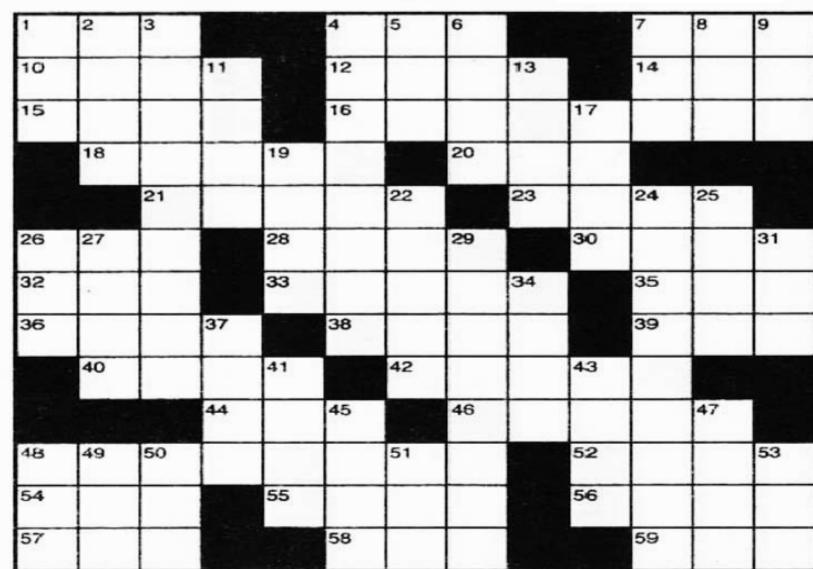
CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Nile snake
 - Berlin's country (abbr.)
 - Ambulance worker (abbr.)
 - Ark commander
 - "__ Almighty"
 - Relatives
 - Challenge
 - City dwelling
 - Malden and Marx
 - JFK's predecessor
 - Sandwich leftover
 - Bag
 - Speed limit abbr.
 - Man
 - Coal measures
 - __ Claire, Wisconsin
 - Fork tine
 - Recent (prefix)
 - Clever people
 - "Is that for here or __?" (2 wds.)
 - Animation unit
 - Kind of soup
 - Actress Gaynor
 - Tune
 - Ear-splitting
 - Overflow
 - Must have
 - Actor Olin
 - Captain Hook's pirate

- DOWN**
- Moreover
 - Long bath
 - Sky-diver's gear
 - Don Adams sitcom (2 wds.)
 - December 24 after sundown, e.g.
 - Novelist Ayn
 - Supplement
 - Hr. portion
 - "The Closer" network
 - Dressed
 - Personality
 - ___ capita
 - Decade segments (abbr.)
 - German "mister"
 - Sparks and Beatty
 - Butcher's product
 - Gravy no-no
 - Blossom
 - Succinctly
 - Leg bender
 - Cat's complaint
 - Beach bucket
 - Locomotive operator
 - Fa follower
 - Jail (Monopoly square, 2 wds.)
 - TV actor Hayes
 - Young goats



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SOLUTION

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FINANCE

Britain clings to austerity despite AAA loss

LONDON (AFP) - British finance minister George Osborne insisted Saturday that he would not abandon his deficit-cutting drive after Moody's stripped the country of its coveted triple-A debt rating.

The opposition lashed Osborne, saying his plan for the economy was shot through, while analysts said that although it was an embarrassment for him, the downgrade would have a limited impact in the markets.

In an expected rebuff to London's hopes that sharp spending cuts would both gradually eliminate the deficit and revive growth, Moody's rating agency cut Britain's grade by one notch to Aa1 on Friday.

Osborne said it was a "loud and clear message that Britain cannot let up in dealing with its debts, dealing with its prob-

lems, cannot let up in making sure that Britain can pay its way in the world.

"What is the message from the ratings agency? Britain's got a debt problem. I agree with that. I've been telling the country for years that we've got a debt problem, we've got to deal with it."

"What do they also say? That if we abandon our commitment to deal with that debt problem, then our situation would get very much worse and I'm absolutely clear that we must not do that."

Moody's said government debt was still mounting and that growth was too weak to reverse the trend before 2016.

It described the British economy as constrained both by turgid global growth and the drag from businesses and the government rapidly slashing their debt burdens.



These two file photos show French former Areva CEO Anne Lauvergeon (L) during a press conference on November 29, 2012 in Paris, France, and then California Republican gubernatorial candidate, former eBay chief Meg Whitman (R) during her primary election night party on July 8, 2010 in Universal City, California. France has overtaken the United States in placing women on the boards of the world's 200 largest companies, according to a study released February 22, 2013. Thanks to a French quota law, a quarter of directors of the 17 top companies, or 25.1 percent, in France are now women. Meanwhile only 20.9 percent of board members were women at the 57 US companies in the top 200, the Corporate Women Directors International said. (AFP PHOTO)

Sports Book & Poker Room



As US budget cuts loom, capital city grows restless

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The question facing Americans no longer seems to be when or whether the budget ax will fall, but how hard. And in the US capital region, the impact of looming spending cuts will be deepest of all.

"They're worried about it, waiting to see what happens," said Douglas Thomas, who shines shoes in the Ronald Reagan Building that houses government and private sector offices a few blocks from the White House.

His customers bemoan the possible furloughs that could see hundreds of thousands of federal workers forced into four-day work weeks beginning March 1. And when they get pinched, so does Thomas.

"Anytime something affects the government, with me being in this building, it hurts my business," he said. "But I've got to go with the flow."

Welcome to the sequester, that lurching monster in the form of massive, across-the-board cuts made into law in 2011 that is expected to wake from its 18-month slumber next month. It was designed to be so painful that Congress would agree to alternative ways to bring down the ballooning debt.

But lawmakers and President Barack Obama have failed to reach a solution, and \$85 billion in indiscriminate cuts to domestic and military programs are about to kick in, meaning a likely downturn in a capital region that had weathered the recession better than most American cities.

Uncertainty looms for virtually every federal office. The FBI will lose up to 1,000 agents, air traffic controllers and airport security personnel will be shed, food inspectors and loan adjusters could be shown the door.

Even Congress is not immune, with House Speaker

John Boehner warning that his own staff could be cut.

And with agencies being told to tighten their belts by up to 13 percent this year, even government and military employees and contractors who hold onto their jobs in the Washington area are set for a jolt.

Walter Tejada, chairman of the board of Virginia's Arlington County just across the Potomac River from Washington, warned of a nightmare scenario in which job cuts and lost wages could send the city and its suburbs into a tailspin.

"We rely heavily on the federal government," Tejada said in an interview, adding that Northern Virginia "might be ground zero" for the effects of sequester. "There are a lot of unknowns."

Under the plan, some 800,000 Defense Department civilians would be forced to take unpaid leave one day a week from April through September. Defense workers in Washington, Maryland and Virginia would lose a combined \$1.1 billion in wages due to the furlough -- money that will no longer feed into the local economy.

Even worse, said Stephen Fuller of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University, is the impact on federal procurement for work done in the metropolitan area.

If such procurement -- which stood at \$75.6 billion last year -- shrinks by eight percent in 2013 as some expect, that would mean a \$6 billion hit to the region.

A total of 331,000 jobs in Washington, Maryland and Virginia could be lost as a direct and indirect result of the cuts, he forecast.

Among the biggest losers will be the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, the world's largest source

of medical research funding.

It stands to see \$1.5 billion slashed from programs across the board, from cutting-edge cancer therapies to Alzheimer's research, resulting in fewer resources for some of the medical world's brightest young minds.

"With the decline in NIH funding, my department will not be able to hire or support these creative young scientists, and a generation of innovators may be missing," said Nobel Prize winner Carol Greider, director of molecular biology and genetics at Johns Hopkins University.

No industry in the region will be hit harder than defense, and nowhere will the military be targeted as harshly as Norfolk, Virginia, about 130 miles (210 kilometers) to the south.

"We are at the tip of the spear here, and the pain level will be acute," Congressman Scott Rigell, whose district includes Norfolk, told AFP.

Defense contractors in and around Norfolk began tightening hiring six months ago in anticipation of the cuts, he said.

The sequester is already affecting Rigell's district. The USS Harry S. Truman had been scheduled to head to the Middle East earlier this month from its port in Norfolk, but the deployment was put on hold due to budget uncertainty.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

P	A	L	M	I	T	B	A	H
A	D	A	O	A	H	U	S	E
M	E	M	O	N	O	R	N	I
N	E	D	S	N	A	T	A	L
B	R	U	T	E	S	L	I	T
L	O	N	E	R	O	P	O	S
D	V	D	H	R	S	T	U	E
G	E	O	R	G	I	S	P	U
D	I	V	A	N	M	B	A	S
U	N	E	T	R	I	T	O	G
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Celebrated German conductor Wolfgang Sawallisch dead at 89

FRANKFURT (AFP) - Wolfgang Sawallisch, one of Germany's greatest conductors, has died at the age of 89, the Bavarian State Opera, where he was general music director and manager for 20 years, announced on Sunday.

Sawallisch was general music director (GMD) in Hamburg from 1960 to 1970, during which he was also chief conductor of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

He conducted the world's greatest orchestras, including the Orchestra Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, the Orchestra Filarmonica della Scala in Milan, the London Philharmonic and the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Orchestre de Paris, the Concertgebouw Orkest, the Vienna Symphony and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Versace goes wild with dominatrix punk in Milan

MILAN (AFP) - Italian fashion icon Donatella Versace brought her own spin to punk on Friday, unveiling a collection dominated by fierce outfits in shiny black, white, or lipstick red vinyls and deadly accessories.

"I started thinking, what would we call the new punk today? This collection is my answer. It is sexy, strong, brave and full of energy," she said.

The autumn/winter 2013 collection, dubbed "VUNK" by the label (Versace punk),

opened with a black vinyl corset swimsuit, fastened with a white fur clasp at the neck, and worn under an open, oversized coat with towering heels.

Punk met dominatrix as brightly coloured monotone outfits in shiny vinyl, often slit open across the upper chest, stormed down the stark white catwalk.

Men be warned, the new Versace woman is not to be crossed: long and very sharp-looking silver or diamante

spikes graced most outfits, worn as chokers or clasps, while extra large nails were used as earrings or ornaments on dresses.

The silver adornments so loved by Donatella, the sister of the late fashion legend Gianni Versace, also graced shoulder bags, while boots were studded.

It was not all about the vinyl: there were fur coats and small jackets in bumblebee yellows and blacks, and

China marks traditional Lantern Festival



Chinese people visit a lantern show for the Chinese Lantern Festival which marks the end of the Lunar New Year celebrations (AFP photo)

SHANGHAI (AFP) - China on Sunday celebrated the traditional Lantern Festival with fireworks and food, as millions of migrant workers flowed back to cities and smog blanketed a large part of the country.

The Lantern Festival formally marks the end of cele-

brations for the Chinese Lunar New Year period, 15 days after it began, and is celebrated by viewing lanterns and setting off fireworks, among other activities.

The Ministry of Railways estimated around 6.4 million people made train journeys on Sunday.

Many of China's migrant workers living in rural areas delay their return to their workplaces beyond the official public holiday, which lasts only a week.

In China's commercial hub of Shanghai, worshippers thronged the Jing'an Buddhist Temple, burning incense and tossing coins into a giant urn to make wishes for the coming year.

Shoppers snapped up dumplings made from glutinous rice with sweet or savoury fillings, called "tang yuan", traditionally eaten on the holiday.

"The pork ones sold out early. We can't make enough," said a clerk at a branch of the famous Shanghai dumpling chain Wang Jia Sha, who offered crab meat or sweet sesame paste alternatives.

Outside Beijing in Yuxian, a rural part of Hebei province, residents marked the festival by holding a parade with a dragon dance and releasing red paper lanterns like small hot-air balloons into the sky.



the label said new interpretations of animal prints had been developed for Versace by American artists The Haas Brothers.

There were also tartan kilts in black and white, worn with thigh-high boots.

But it was hard to get away from it. Even black woollen coats had vinyl lapels, and an evening dress featuring a spider web motif, a recurring trend this season in Milan, had panels of vinyl inserted down the front and back.

Perhaps the most eye-catching creation was a

fetish-inspired silver harness, which stretched -- spikes and all -- from a choker at the neck down to the waist, with two belts running across chest and midriff, worn over punk t-shirts.

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Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to

countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are al-



ready enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, tak-

ing full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards

and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Budget Car Rental celebrating 50 years budget-minded service!



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Frederick, Lisette and Larry welcome you

The car rental name synonymous with savings will next month celebrate their golden anniversary of operating on Aruba! One of the first of its kind to establish a car rental agency with highly competitive prices, it still maintains that standard of offering the best service, a diverse fleet of vehicles to meet each renters needs, at the best price possible.

Budget has a fleet of 250 autos on Aruba, ranging from subcompact to authentic Jeep Wrangler® hardtop 4X4 or the stylish Toyota Rav 4, for exploring Aruba's outback in air-conditioned comfort. Their standard Toyota Yaris, the most popular model, is known for quality and dependability. Each year, they refresh 25% of their fleet and retire the older cars. Compared to the U.S., car rentals are quite affordable on Aruba, with the third party liability insurance included in the rental rates, as required by law.

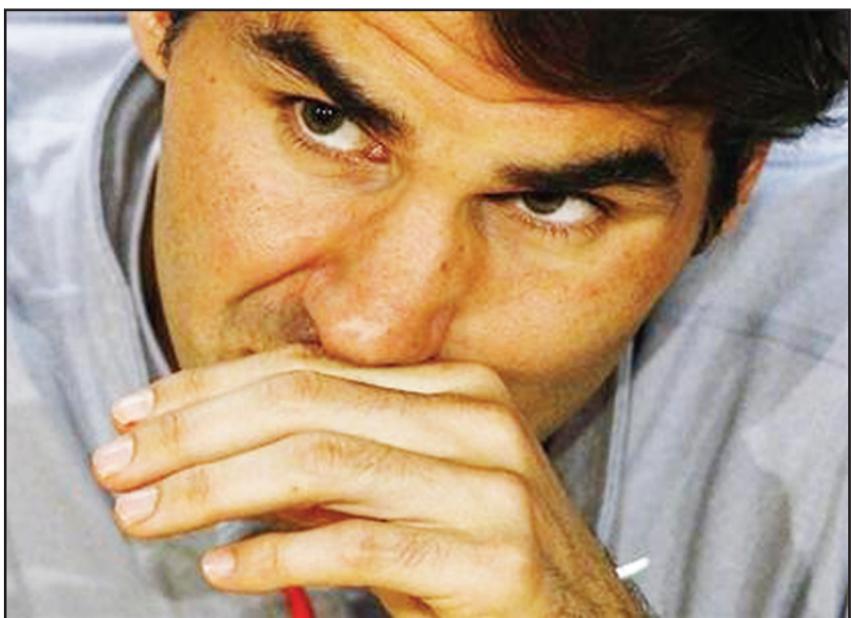
Budget's head office is in Camacuri, not far from the airport, but they maintain an outlet right at the airport and another conveniently located in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach, an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach resorts. Budget will provide free transportation to their Arawak Gardens outlet from any hotel, and return you to your door when turning in your car.

A Toyota Yaris rents for \$174 for the week; there is an additional airport concession fee to have a car available immediately on arrival, but this is balanced out by the cost of roundtrip fares to most resorts, and on weekly rentals is a decided savings.

Budget has become the world's third largest car rental franchise because of their commitment to quality service and product at the best price possible, and the staff of Budget Car Rental Aruba is equally dedicated to seeing their customers smile.

SPORTS

I can become number one again, says Federer



DUBAI (AFP) - Roger Federer bristled a little when it was suggested to him that his days as world number one might be at an end because of his reduced schedule, and only a few seconds were needed for him to knock that idea back.

The 31-year-old top-ranking record-holder is only planning to play 14 tournaments this year, even dropping his home town tournament in Basel and the Miami tournament which has sometimes been described as the biggest outside the four Grand Slams.

Federer, who is now world number two, is already more than 4000 ranking points behind the leader Novak Djokovic, whose total is 40 percent more than the Swiss legend.

This means that the chances of the sport's greatest legend adding to his record total of 302 weeks at the top would appear to be significantly reduced.

But Federer immediately contested that. "It's definitely realistic if I'm playing great, but I need to play absolutely great," he said, before expressing his doubts.

"I can play great, but will I be allowed to? Time will tell. My big focus is on making sure that every tournament I enter I am perfectly prepared. I am hopeful I will get enough matches but if not my schedule can be changed."

"I need to make sure I have enough time off, so that when 2014 comes I am in a position with options which I almost wasn't this year to a

degree."

This is a reference to the options which will be open to him in 10 months time according to ATP Tour rules. These reduce a player's mandatory commitments to Masters events by one tournament for each of the following milestones - 600 career matches, 12 years' service, and 31 years of age.

But because Federer will have achieved all three, he will be able to skip as many as he wishes without penalty.

For this and other reasons Federer also insists he can ex-

"If I feel confident and am enjoying it I hope to play for a long time. I think I am playing excellent tennis. Some win Grand Slams at 16 and others at 34. It depends how you see things."

tend his all-time record of 17 Grand Slam tournament titles.

"I strongly believe I have more Slams in me," he said. "Which Slam do I favour - does Wimbledon over-weigh the rest? Maybe, but looking back there have been amazing moments with each Slam.

"It depends how long I play. But I don't want to be depending on that. I am trying to be smart with my schedule. I am practising more."

"Your prime is 23 to 27 or 28 so for me it's very challenging - and exciting. I need to make the right decisions. I have family and not many guys have that."

Federer was even more adamant that retirement was not close. "I want to give myself the best chance to play as

long as I can. Maybe then it will become clear that it is time to stop. You know things change very quickly, and you have to be ready and open about it.

"But I would like to give myself the chance to play for many years to come. I am happy with the way my body is. I am healthy and happy to be playing. And as for the number one ranking and Grand Slams are still really important to me.

"If I feel confident and am enjoying it I hope to play for a long time. I think I am playing excellent tennis. Some win Grand Slams at 16 and others at 34. It depends how you see things."

"The over-30 guys are extremely consistent. I think I can play good tennis not playing so much."

Federer's realism was shown by his reaction to Rafael Nadal's predicament as he tries to return to his former eminence after injuries and many months out of the game.

Not only did Federer show sympathy for Nadal but emphasised that others had something to learn from him.

"It's not only him who needs to be careful but all of us," Federer emphasised. "How much travelling can you do? How much training? How much sleep does the body need? How much time away from the game do you need? Everyone is different."

"At the end of the day the body and the mind can only take so much."

Federer's new time-and-energy economy will mean that he takes fully seven weeks off between next month's Master Series in Indian Wells and the clay court season in May. He has played on three matches since the Australian Open four weeks ago.

A test of the effectiveness of this will begin at the Dubai Open on Monday when he plays a first round against Malek Jaziri, the world number 130 from Tunisia.

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Substance found in Pistorius home a 'sexual stimulant': report

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - A substance found in star athlete Oscar Pistorius's home during a search by police investigating the killing of his girlfriend is a herbal sexual stimulant, a South African newspaper reported Sunday.

The prosecution said during Pistorius's bail hearing last week that police had found two boxes of "testosterone" and needles in his Pretoria home, but the defence countered that it was a legal herbal remedy known as testocompasutum coenzyme.

The City Press newspaper said Sunday the remedy was a combination of vitamins, herbal cures partly derived from animal organs.

Sports physician Jon Patririos told the paper the product is used to boost sexual energy, but that athletes are not advised to use it since it may increase their testosterone levels.

"This is not an anabolic steroid and it is unlikely it will lead to irrational anger," he said.

The National Prosecuting Authority has said it was awaiting the results of forensic tests to determine what the product is.

Pistorius, 26, an Olympic and Paralympic hero, was freed on bail on Friday ahead

of a trial on a murder charge over the Valentine's Day killing of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

The International Paralympic Committee said the double amputee was tested twice during the London Paralympics in 2012 and tested negative.



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Pistorius brother faces trial over fatal car crash

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - The older brother of South African star sprinter Oscar Pistorius -- himself accused of murdering his girlfriend -- has been charged over a deadly road crash five years ago, the family confirmed on Sunday.

"Carl Pistorius, brother of Paralympic athlete Oscar Pistorius, faces charges of culpable homicide after a 2008 road accident in which a woman motorcyclist sadly lost her life," the family said in a statement.

His trial had been due to start last Thursday, a day before his famous brother was granted bail on a charge of

premeditated murder for shooting dead his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day.

Carl Pistorius's case has been adjourned to the end of March, meaning he will likely go on trial before his younger brother, who he closely resembles.

The 28-year-old "deeply regrets" the March 2008 incident, the family said. "It was a tragic road accident after the deceased collided with Carl's car."

Tests showed no alcohol in his blood at the time of the

Maradona returns to Italy despite tax storm

ROME (AFP) - Diego Maradona returns to Italy on Monday where he will again find himself facing questions over allegations that he owes millions of euros in taxes.

The Argentine World Cup winner, still an idol in Italy after leading Napoli to Serie A titles more than 20 years ago, will watch his former club in Udinese and then give a news conference on Tuesday.

Maradona was convicted in 2005 and ordered to pay 37.2 million euros (\$50.4 million), including 23.5 million euros in interest for late payments.

West Indies beat Zimbabwe by seven wickets

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AFP) - West Indies beat Zimbabwe by seven wickets in the second one-day international at the National Cricket Stadium on Sunday to take a 2-0 lead in the three-game series.

Ramnaresh Sarwan hit an undefeated 120, his highest ever one-day international score, as West Indies reached 274-3 with an over to spare.

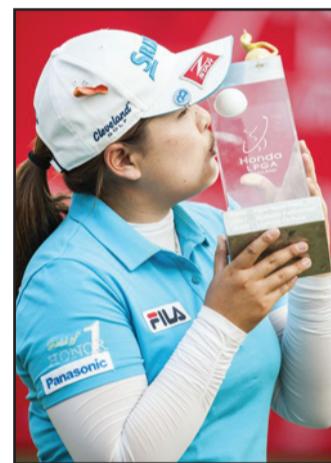
accident in Vanderbijlpark, 60 kilometres (40 miles) south of Johannesburg.

Prosecutors reinstated the charges after they were initially dropped.

Attorney Kenny Oldwage, who also represents Oscar Pistorius, had "no doubt" Carl was innocent, the statement added.

Oscar Pistorius, the 26-year-old double amputee athlete known as "Blade Runner", was released on one million rand (\$112,770) bail on Friday. He is due back in court on June 4.

Park wins in Thailand but tears for teen Ariya



Pattaya, Thailand (AFP) - Inbee Park won the Honda LPGA Thailand on Sunday in a day of high drama as local teen star Ariya Jutanugarn suffered heartbreak after fluffing a two-shot lead at the final hole.

The Korean world number four, who made a final-round 67 to finish the tournament 12-under at 276 (67-71-71-67), looked on in shock from the locker room as 17-year-old Ariya triple-bogeyed the last to lose by a single shot.

Overnight leader Ariya finished 11-under (69-66-70-72), with world number one Tseng Yani a shot further back (75-68-72-63) in joint-third with Korea's So-Yeon

Ryu (68-68-74-68), American Stacy Lewis (63-69-76-70) and Beatriz Recari of Spain (68-68-72-70).

It was the cruellest of outcomes for the young Thai who captured hearts with courageous golf -- even making a hole-in-one on the 12th -- before tears as she left the final green to be consoled by her older sister and fellow pro golfer Moriya.

"I don't know what to say... I'm still shocked," said Park, who watched stunned as Ariya's misery unfolded at the final hole.

Three up at the start of play Ariya, who only turned professional last month, looked set for a famous home victory as she clung onto a two shot advantage into the par five last.

She hit a solid fairway, but found the lip of the bunker and then missed the green as the pressure cranked up and her advantage slipped away stunning a partisan crowd into silence.

Needing a miracle putt to rescue the title, she scuffed from the rough and was then left horrified as her ball curled across the rim of the hole to leave her title dream in tatters.

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Jimmie Johnson wins the Daytona 500, Danica Patrick finishes eighth



Jimmie Johnson, driver of the #48 Lowe's Chevrolet, hoists the Harley J. Earl trophy after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AFP) - Jimmie Johnson won the Daytona 500 on Sunday with pole sitter Danica Patrick's bid to become the first woman to win a NASCAR Sprint Cup race ending in an eighth-placed finish.

Johnson held off a last-lap charge from Dale Earnhardt jnr at Daytona International Speedway to win "The Great American Race" for the second time. Mark Martin was third.

The 55th Daytona 500 made history days before the green flag flew. Danica Patrick delivered on a measure of the hype surrounding her by becoming the first woman to ever qualify for the pole in a Sprint Cup race. While she couldn't initially capitalize on her leading position — Jeff Gordon passed her almost immediately — Patrick remained close to the front for most of the day. When she took the

lead on Lap 90, she became the first woman ever to lead a lap under green at the Daytona 500. She entered the final lap in third place, and would go on to finish eighth.

"Ran up front all day long, led a little, stayed in the top 10 pretty much," Patrick said after getting out of her car. "It's always a little frustrating when you come through and You're in the top three in the last lap, but I'll learn more for the next time."

Jeff Gordon, starting beside her on the front row, seized the lead on the first lap, but when Patrick moved to the front on the 90th it was to a huge ovation from the crowd. She ran in front for a total of six laps.

Johnson emerged from the pack after a tense restart from a caution with six laps remaining and held on to add a second Daytona title to the one he captured in 2006.

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Beckham enjoys dream debut as PSG stay top

PARIS (AFP) - David Beckham enjoyed a memorable Paris Saint-Germain debut on Sunday when he came off the bench to help set up the second goal in the Ligue 1 leaders 2-0 win over bitter rivals Marseille.

The win kept Carlo Ancelotti's side three points clear of Lyon who defeated Lorient 3-1 earlier in the day.

Former Manchester United, Real Madrid and LA Galaxy star Beckham came on in the 76th minute on a

freezing, snowy night in Paris to a rousing reception.

But in a Hollywood ending to his debut, Beckham made sure the headlines will again feature his name by playing a crucial role in the second PSG goal.